

REMARKS

Entry of the foregoing and reconsideration of the application identified in caption as amended, pursuant to and consistent with the Rules of Practice in Patent Cases, and in light of the remarks which follow, is respectfully requested.

By the present amendment claims 1-4, 7, 9-12, and 15-17 have been amended, new claims 25-35 have been presented and claims 13, 14, and 18-24 have been cancelled, so that claims 1-12, 15-17, and 25-35 will be pending upon entry of the present amendment.

Applicants affirm the provisional election of the invention of Group I, claims 1-18, drawn to a microfluidic chip device without traverse, made during a telephone conversation with the Examiner on October 13, 2004. Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application with respect to the claims directed to non-elected inventions.

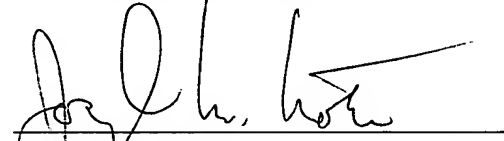
The rejection of claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, for indefiniteness has been rendered moot by the cancellation of claim 18.

Claims 9-11 have been indicated by the Examiner as containing allowable subject matter. The Examiner has concluded that the prior art does not teach, or fairly suggest a robot autosampler which provides electrospray voltage to the chip or fluid, specifically to the substrate of the chip through the chip mount, to the substrate of the chip through the chip holder or to the fluid through the fluid delivery probe, as set forth in claims 9-11, respectively. Accordingly, applicants have amended independent claim 1 to recite a robot autosampler which provides voltage to the electrospray chip and to the fluid sample contained in the delivery probe to form an electrospray of the sample. Moreover, all claims depend from revised claim 1. Consequently, pending claims 1-12, 15-17, and 25-35 are not anticipated or rendered obvious from the teachings of the cited prior art.

Accordingly, withdrawal of the record rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) for anticipation by Mandle alone and Karger '010 alone and the record rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for obviousness over the various recited combinations of Karger '010, Karger '749, Mann, Ludden, and Sumate are respectfully requested.

In view of all of the foregoing, applicant submits that this case is in condition for allowance and such allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph M. Noto
Registration No. 32,163

Date: February 4, 2005

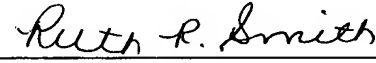
NIXON PEABODY LLP
Clinton Square, P.O. Box 31051
Rochester, New York 14603-1051
Telephone: (585) 263-1601
Facsimile: (585) 263-1600

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